

Doniece Gott

From: Cherie Stihler <cheriestihler@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: PLEASE save Owl!!!!

Dear Sirs and Madams

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Thank you most kindly

Chérie B. Stihler

[Http://www.cheriestihler.com](http://www.cheriestihler.com)

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: CHERYL SMITH <canyonzoosbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Online with Libraries Funding

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries!

thank you,
Cheryl Smith

Doniece Gott

From: Erin Ohlson <erinbk22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL funding

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries!

Thank you,

Sincerely Erin Ohlson, President of the Gustavus Community Preschool

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Doniece Gott

From: Mary G Cook <marygcook13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:23 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Library Funding

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries!

Doniece Gott

From: Annie Mackovjak <amackovjak15@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Library internet funding

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries!

Thank you,

Ann Mackovjak

PO Box 63

Gustavus, AK 99826

Doniece Gott

From: Margaret Cosmah <Margaret.Cosmah@matsugov.us>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB139 & HP256

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Margaret Cosmah

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Matanuska-Susitna Library Network

350 E Dahlia Ave

Palmer Alaska 99645

PH: 907.861.8633

Fax: 907.746.3730

Doniece Gott

From: Bre Ohlson <bre.ohlson@gustavus.lib.ak.us>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:49 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE OWL!!! I need it to FINISH MY DEGREE!

I live in Gustavus, Alaska, I work at the library. I'm working on getting my Master's in library Sciences online. If you discontinue to fund OWL, I will no longer be able to finish my degree!

YOU MUST FUND OWL, OR YOU WILL BE CREATING A STATE FULL OF SECOND CLASS CITIZENS!

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries!

Sent from Outlook Mobile

Doniece Gott

From: Matthew Davis <mdavisak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: restore OWL - line item?

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Sincerely,

Holly Davis, mother of four

POB 451

Haines, AK 99827

907-766-3756

3-9-16

Honorable Chairman Kelly and Honorable Finance Committee Senators:

I appreciate the dilemma Alaska is in financially. I hear a good deal of talk about cutting. Certainly running government in an efficient manner is the best practice. And, I do appreciate your desire to eliminate items from the budget that are unnecessary. Unfortunately you are at the point where not many of those items exist anymore.

For three years now I have been a contractor for the Department of Education as a mentor for new teachers. About half of new teachers leave the profession in the first five years. The Alaska Statewide Mentor Project has documented evidence that it both increases teacher retention rates and increases student test scores compared to teachers who are not mentored.

I have been in the education business for over forty years. A decade ago we had a glut of new teachers and it was a buyers market when districts were looking to fill a classroom position. In my over forty years of experience I have never seen the scarcity of teaching professionals we have this year. This is not just an Alaskan phenomenon. There is a shortage of teaching professionals nationwide.

I have observed classrooms where there is no certified teacher this year and I have heard of dozens more. Many positions went unfilled from the beginning of the year. I do not expect this situation to get better. I would suggest this is not a good time to eliminate the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project. We need to help districts all over the state maintain quality teachers. Furthermore cutting Alaska's teacher education programs also seems counter productive at this time.

Secondly, I would ask that you immediately move forward by improving the state's revenue stream. We all know it is impossible to cut our way out of this financial crisis. Significantly more revenue is necessary. And, I say that as a fiscal conservative myself. Please consider adopting some system that uses a portion of permanent fund earnings. Leaving the permanent fund as it is now, while implementing an income tax, would be a slap in the face of the working men and women of our state. Please don't shoulder all the responsibility for running our government on the people who are out their working.

There are thousands of people in this state that do not work and many who have never worked. All Alaskans benefit from sound government and we should all share in the cost of government's operation. Since Permanent Fund earnings go to every man, woman, and child in the state, reducing the share each person gets would be an equal way for each person to share in the responsibility for our government and its operation.

I am concerned that this legislature will make deep cuts while not acting of the problem. Huge revenue is needed and whatever system is put in place to remedy this will take months, perhaps years to implement. Please do not burn through our entire savings account before you act.

Thank you for what you do, for the tough decisions you make, and for the public service you offer. You are working hard for the people. I appreciate your sacrifice.

Sincerely yours,

Woody Wilson
907-305-0305
woodnpegbiz@gci.net

Doniece Gott

From: ChristineDerr@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 8:57 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

Thank you,
Christine Derr
Former teacher, present mom of 2

Doniece Gott

From: Cristian Nunez <cris.nunez@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:00 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Pass the Walker Budget

Dear Senate,

Government spending is an important and critical part of the AK economy, contributing over 20% of state domestic product. Cutting government spending hurts all Alaskans and weakens our ability to grow in the future. The cuts enacted over the past two years have gone far enough -- we need to increase revenue. Don't be afraid to tax - Alaskans are eager to see their university thrive, troopers on patrol, trails and infrastructure maintained, and properly funded courts and social services.

Reject the House's irresponsible budget and pass Walker's budget. Please don't succumb to right wing dogma and listen to our state economists. Government spending is not bad - it is a collective investment in all Alaskans, today and tomorrow.

Thanks,
Cris Nunez

5459 Cape Seville Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

Doniece Gott

From: frontdesk@haineslibrary.org
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 1:10 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please restore OWL funding

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Thank you,
-Elizabeth Jurgeleit

Doniece Gott

From: Carol Schlentner <cschlentner@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 9:57 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please restore OWL funding

Not funding OWL (Online With Libraries) means Lake Minchumina Community and 26 other bush communities will go back to the dark ages. Our library without broadband means we will have no reliable means of communication. We have no infrastructure to come up with money to pick up the tab. We have no cell phone service and troublesome land line telephone service. We have to fly for at least one hour (one way) in any direction to get to another community with internet. Everything here comes and goes by airplane. We are strategically placed in the geographic center of Alaska, so we have BLM fire fighters using the broadband to coordinate fighting fires all over the Interior, besides saving our community. The most recent fires were in 2013 and 2015.

The non profit EarthScope part of the Geophysical Institute will not be able to have their computers collect data from other seismometers. These important computers are housed in our library. These computers are part of the early Tsunami warning system for the state of Alaska.

The person who safely maintains the runway will not be able to receive picture communication of what needs to be done on the runway.

All residents use the broadband to download income tax forms, order food, mechanical parts, and Skype to their grandchildren. The other form of internet we had before OWL were too slow for Skype or to download pictures. How can we apply for jobs and take special courses to be better qualified for work without a fast efficient form of internet which is already in place?

We have lots of historical records and people we would like to interview so we look forward to using OWL video equipment in the years to come. It has taken a few years to train to use this equipment so please allow us to use our newly learned expertise by funding OWL.

We at Lake Minchumina do not understand why the Ambler mining road and the road to Nome are receiving funding when at the same time you have no desire to keep in place a working system (OWL) which will give the state of Alaska prosperous citizens for generations to come.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Schlentner (unsalaried library director)

PO Box 40

Lake Minchumina, Alaska, 99757

907-674-3112

Doniece Gott

From: John J Kiernan <goldbeard84@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 1:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: commentary@alaskadispatch.com
Subject: Alaska Budget Feedback.

Ravenous wolves are circling our Stash of Cash. En garde mes Amis, Protect our P.F.D.

"Quite a trick to blow through Alaska's savings, then propose a dividend cap." Clem Tillion, ADN Jan. 25th 2016 **You Agree? They have spent over twice the value of our fund and now want to spend even more. They do not know when, or how to stop spending. Starting with OUR Dividends they want access to our Permanent Fund itself. What?**

"Alaskans beware: Government will never defund itself." Jim Crawford ADN Feb. 6th 2016. He goes on to write; "Don't fix the public budget by breaking the backs of Alaska families. **A bloated bureaucracy won't sustain Alaska's economy. A stable and private sector will.**"

Gov. Bill Walker himself says that it is time for us all to pull together to raid the People's fund. Ref: ADN Friday, Jan. 21st 2016. Yes, Bob Kaufman, you and all the others, are all Thieves, Robbers and Rapists. **Having, down the years, overspent our oil income \$Billions, would you now rob the Peoples Permanent Fund too?**

It is time to become aware that our minds are being **pre-conditioned**, by one commentator after another. We are being brainwashed, Herr Gobbles style, by lying propaganda published regularly via the ADN and other local media into accepting the idea that we must allow our state access to our Pot of Gold, Our Permanent Fund. **En garde mes Amis, Protect Your P.F.D.** from the ravenous wolves who greedily circle our Stash of Cash. Frau McGuire is even better than Herr Gobbles. See ADN Sunday March 6, 2016 "There's a way to keep PFDs, balance our budget, limit government." Is that so? Well, I may be Irish, but my eyes are not green.

The Dirty Bastards club is very strong here in Alaska. First they had to rid us of Alaska's Leading Lady, our ex-Governor Sarah Palin. Then that traitor in our midst, Sean Parnell, helped get rid of ACES and gave the \$Billions we were getting as our clear and equitable share of oil taxes, to the oil companies. We need her back to lead us forward. Come back Sarah Palin to Alaska, your home. Come fill our coffers again, with \$Billions as you formerly did, when you gave us ACES, before you were driven out of here, by the Dirty Bastards, who hate your guts. They hate our guts too and will gladly shear us naked. We need you again to subvert those treacherous Bastards. They will ignore the law, avoid putting the matter to the people and raid our fund. They will not **contain their spending within the limits already allowed by the fund.**

ALASKA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VIII – NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 1. Statement of Policy. It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.

Section 2. General Authority. The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, **for the maximum benefit of its people.**

All monies produced from our Natural Resources, belongs to the State of Alaska. Therefore **the legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people.**

The **Permanent Fund** does not belong to our State Government. It **belongs to the People of Alaska State**. All this propaganda babble is just that. Babble. **We The People**, can of course, lend money from the Fund to the State against receipt of Non-Redeemable, Tax Free State Bonds @ let's say 10%. These bonds could be issued to the Permanent Fund Corporation who could hold them on behalf of a citizen or they could distribute them to each citizen, who can then sell them on the bond market if desired. Once sold however, they would become taxable.

Borrowing fund monies can and must be done at commercial rates beneficial to the Fund.

Herr Kaufman is correct, in that small cuts in the budget are not going to make any difference to our state expenditures. So then, **Privatize Education**. Wow. Have you got the guts to face the music? **Privatize** the city police forces. **Privatize** the fire brigades. **Privatize** our jail system. It is way past time to get rid of SB21 and bring back our ACES form of taxation on oil. It is time to **get rid of all Oil Tax Credits**. **The privatization of services will eliminate the need for taxes.**

No pressure should ever be brought to bear by any government officials upon the Permanent Fund Trustees to buy or sell any investments. **The Trustees need to be able to act totally independent of government interference to make good financial decisions.**

It's no secret that most of the politicians in Juneau look longingly at the Alaska Permanent Fund to solve the current budget crisis. **The reality is that politicians whose election campaigns are paid for by the wealthy few don't represent the folks for whom the PFD is such an important, even critical part of a family budget. Thank you Governor Hammond. Our Governor now, needs to obey our Alaska Constitution and the people of Alaska who have already voted by an almost 90% vote on this PFD matter.**

That's one reason Gov. Jay Hammond wanted a dividend. Defending that dividend means defending the fund. **Rally round and roar at the robbers who would raid our Stash of Cash.**

Now the introduction of a sales tax at just 3%, while maintaining all other taxes as they are, is a No Deal. Es ist nicht gut, mein Herr, nein, nein, nein. No new taxes to rape and rob the people. The Fund can lend the State money against 10% tax free bonds. Most of us have to pay much more than 10% ON OUR CREDIT CARDS. If the State wishes to spend money it does not have, then it too like unto us, should have to pay for the privilege. Yes Governor, let's all pull together, but let's not destroy the People's Fund. **We the people** will gladly lend you money to keep you financially viable against the security of AK State Bonds @ 10% interest, non redeemable. All you have to do is make a profit by charging for your services and pay the interest due on the bonded loan.

John J Kiernan Goldbeard84@gmail.com Cell# 907-441-2964 www.Kiernan.blog.com/?p=103

Ad Majoram Dei Gloriam, et Dominus Vobiscum.

Doniece Gott

From: Sheila Ring <mmlibrary@bbbak.us>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2016 11:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL Funding FY2017

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Sheila Ring

Library Director

Martin Monsen Regional Library

PO Box 147

Naknek, Alaska 99633

907-246-4465

mmlibrary@bbbak.us

Doniece Gott

From: karenjensen99709@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:24 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: detroit

Dear Senators:

Under-funding the educational system in Alaska, including the outrageous cut to the university, will have devastating long-term impacts to our communities. Those impacts will hurt everyone, but will hit blue collar workers, and those with even less means, the hardest. I find it incredibly ironic, and terribly sad, that the very people arguing against taxes will be the ones who face the worst suffering if the state completely collapses, and they are the ones who would probably pay less if there were an income tax.

Our family recently decided to put on hold our on-going renovation projects on our home here in Fairbanks, in case the budget you put forth does so much damage to the university (where I work) that we have to leave quickly to avoid the catastrophic melt down that might happen. The reality of your budget proposal is that we may need to sell our home and leave Alaska, hopefully while our home still has some value and before the real estate market collapses. This scenario isn't far-fetched; look at Detroit, look at Flint, do some research. That's where we are currently headed, unless you act.

Our family spent \$40,000 last year with a local contractor to renovate our home. The contractor employed 4 different people to work on our house, procured materials from 3 different building stores, and did a fabulous job on our little fixer upper. That money, earned from my job at UAF and carefully saved up, was spread all over this community. Upcoming projects include a new deck, new carpet and flooring in all rooms, house painting, kitchen cabinets, and more; local contractors and hardware stores will not get our business now, until we know that things are more secure. We're doing less shopping at all stores here in Fairbanks, building the bank account in order to cover moving expenses if necessary. Restaurants, coffee shops, car dealers - we need a new truck - will not see any spending from us, again, until we know life here will be sustainable. Your lack of useful action is already causing a downturn; our family is not the only one exploring options, and saving in case of a disaster.

You may think you are only cutting the university, service agencies, schools, nursing homes, etc. but you are cutting society itself. Your constituents who oppose taxes may not realize that those of us with "government-funded jobs" in fact do important work, and that if we leave in mass exodus, their future will not be rosy. Many people with means will leave. I feel fortunate that we are middle class, that I can find employment in my field in the lower 48 without too much trouble, and that we are good savers. At least we are in a position to make a new life somewhere else, perhaps a place that understands why research and education matter. Those left behind, all those trade and service people, folks depending on local businesses, will be the ones who have to endure the mess you make by not ensuring a future for Alaska. They may not have to pay taxes, but their community will be a wreck of empty stores, boarded up homes, abandoned lots and nowhere to get an education or training to improve their future.

I love Fairbanks. I have lived here 20 years, and in my job have served hundreds of students who became engineers, nurses, teachers, counselors, oil field workers, chefs, dental hygienists. I volunteer here, give blood, do Clean up Day, go to the fair, participate in civic life in all kinds of ways with all kinds of people, as do most university employees. We don't want to leave. Don't destroy our way of life here in Alaska. Pass a revenue bill and fund the state so that we all have a future together.

Sincerely,
Karen Jensen
3047 Ester Dome Rd
Fairbanks AK 99709
karenjensen99709@yahoo.com

Doniece Gott

From: Deborah J. Rinio <deborah.rinio@k12northstar.org>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:43 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Restore OWL Funding

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

Deborah Rinio
Librarian, Hutchison High School
deborah.rinio@k12northstar.org
907-479-2261 x123

Doniece Gott

From: Cliff & Kathy <corkheus@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL

Please restore the funds for the OWL program for Alaska libraries to the budget. The program helps all libraries , especially the rural areas.
K.Heus

Sent from my iPad

State of Alaska

March 8, 2016

Rich Thorne, councilmember
City of Bettles
Box 26023
Bettles Field, AK 99726

re: State Community Revenue Sharing Program

Dear Honorable Members of both houses of Congress and Governor Walker,

Please restore full funding to the State CRS program. The importance of this program to the City of Bettles and to the State economy cannot be overstated. Ninety-eight percent of the entire budget of the City of Bettles consists of CRS funding, and the cuts we face even next fiscal year are unacceptable. Without CRS, the City of Bettles simply goes away. We have no private land and very little base for other taxes. Would the disappearance of the City of Bettles be a problem? What is the State getting for its CRS funds spent in Bettles?

Bettles is an important cog in the Alaska aviation system – we are the transportation hub into Gates of the Arctic National Park and the only alternate landing field that sells aviation fuels between Deadhorse and Fairbanks, Kotzebue and Fort Yukon – a very large piece of real estate. “A place we count on,” my pilot friends tell me. CRS funds our local road maintenance, our fire department, and our ice road connection to the Dalton Highway.

The Bettles Ice Road consumes 50% of our budget currently. With no prospects of the State building an all-weather road to Bettles, our ice road is critical: the \$50,000 we spend each year on the ice road saves the communities of Bettles and Evansville (combined) \$600,000 in transportation costs (ice road compared to air transport). That's \$600K our community can't afford – the increase in costs of living and doing business would drive many of us out of the community. Lower transportation costs help keep us competitive in the worldwide tourist business – our tourist industry is worth more than \$12 million to the economy of Fairbanks, as all of our clients must travel through Fairbanks to get here. If Bettles wasn't here, would those clients go elsewhere in Alaska? Perhaps – but 2/3 of them are making Bettles their sole choice destination because of our superior weather for aurora viewing and because of the access our air taxis provide to hunting and hiking areas and river float trips. Those 2/3 of our clients wouldn't come to Alaska at all if Bettles wasn't available. Killing Bettles will have a major impact on Fairbanks. The Community Revenue Sharing program for the City of Bettles is a great investment in the State economy. Please restore full funding at FY2016 level to the State CRS program.

Thank you for considering us,

Rich Thorne

Doniece Gott

From: Lorraine Dudzik <kayakcove@att.net>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 5:57 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

Last week I attended a video conference at Haines Borough Public Library sponsored by the Rasmuson Foundation. The conference was invaluable to the non-profit organizations that participated. It helped us understand the budget decisions which you face and the options left to us in this fiscal environment. Without OWL we would not have received this important information. It is critical that OWL continue to be funded.

Doniece Gott

From: JoAnn Ross Cunningham <joannrossc@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 5:22 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL funding, support needed

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

JoAnn Ross Cunningham

Haines, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Richard Flegel <209beachrd@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 4:45 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Online With Libraries Funding

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Dick Flegel
Haines AK

Doniece Gott

From: James Alborough <james@bearstar.net>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 4:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Urgent Request: Restore OWL Funding

Importance: High

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing again today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Sincerely,
James Alborough
Chair, Haines Borough Public Library

James Alborough
907-766-2082

Doniece Gott

From: director@haineslibrary.org
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 4:13 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please restore OWL funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As President of the Alaska Library Association, I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match. In rural and remote areas, the public libraries are often the only affordable choice of internet access. Cutting OWL funding will leave these communities without affordable and high speed Internet connections necessary for 21st century tasks and competencies.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request. We appreciate the time and efforts you give to the citizens and state of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Patricia Brown

President

Alaska Library Association

Doniece Gott

From: Deborah Gravel <deborah.gravel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 2:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL MUST BE FUNDED!

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Sincerely,
Deborah Gravel
PO Box 286
Haines AK 99827

Doniece Gott

From: Edith Mackie <rmack@aptalaska.net>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 2:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Cuts to Senior Services

Dear Committee, Please do not cut our budget for Senior Services. I would rather have a State Income Tax or give up my Permanent Fund Distribution than to see these vitally necessary services cut. Thank you for your consideration.

Ralph Mackie
512 First St
Craig, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Joyanne Hamilton <innoko_bird@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 2:06 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL PROGRAM URGENT!

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Doniece Gott

From: David Otness <djounderthevolcano@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 1:22 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: PFDs

0 Comments

Dear Legislators:

We gotta subsidize a bankrupt and obsolete economy in the most egregious form of "*Privatize the Profits and Socialize the Losses*" I've yet seen in Alaska in my 65 years here? The least among us must take the hit for the burghers of finance and crony capitalism? A real great way to get back in the civilian workforce if you ask me. (And of course you wouldn't ask me).

I worked to get us the PF and the PFD back in the day; it was and is not meant to fund the government you guys have overbuilt at our now financial peril along with your mega-projects and endless consultants. If anything at all, the amount of revenues going into the Fund should go up to 50%.

Norway has over \$1 trillion in their Sovereign Wealth Fund with less oil produced and in less time. I remember when they sent a delegation here to see how our Fund was working. It appears we should have returned the favor.

Stay out of it! Sincerely,

David Otness
Cordova, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Barbara Deardorff <mcgrathlibrarian@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 12:49 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

--

Michael Mason
McGrath Community Library
PO Box 249
McGrath, AK 99627
Phone: 907-524-3843
Fax: 907-524-3335

City of Emmonak

P.O. Box 9, Emmonak, Alaska 99581
(907) 949-1227 • (907) 949-1249 • Fax (907) 949-1926
email: emnacity@gmail.com

Testimony

Martin B. Moore Sr.
City Manager City of Emmonak

March 9, 2016

Honorable State Senator
Pete Kelly and Anna Mckinnon
Co-Chairs of the Senate Finance Committee

My name is Martin B. Moore Sr., City Manager City of Emmonak.

The City of Emmonak is a member of the unorganized borough and effectuates very limited revenue resources income.

This locally generated income collects 3 % sales tax.

Bingo and pull tabs revenue resources.

Water and sewer fees and schedules paid.

Very limited land lease activities, resources income.

Lowering the current revenue sharing for 2016-2017 would create a perpetual financial hardship on unorganized village municipalities.

Please maintain what is predicable but avoid closures of village municipalities.

1-844-586-9085

SB- State Operating Budget

Doniece Gott

From: Merrie Mendenhall <mjmen14@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 11:36 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Re: OWL program funding, please support

Please see attached

On Mar 11, 2016 11:33 AM, "Merrie Mendenhall" <mjmen14@gmail.com> wrote:

As a registered voter and library board member in a very small community library I am asking you to restore funding for the online With Libraries OWL broadband funding in the FY 2017 budget (SB 139 and HB 2567). Please restore it to the recommended level of \$761,800.

Without state funding, 3.1 million dollars of federal matching aid for broadband internet access will be forfeit. I see local residents on a daily basis applying for employment, PFD, and federal income tax. Every rural and urban community in the state will lose this broadband access through its libraies if OWL is defunded.

Please restore support for this program to ensure that the 4.1+ million dollars in federal matching funds (which stay here in Alaska) continue to support broadband access in 104 public libraries.

Thank you for your consideration,

Merrie J Mendnhall
PO 39821
Ninilchik, Ak 99639

Doniece Gott

From: Susan Baker <shaker.99615@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 10:28 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: please fund OWL

Dear members of the Senate and Finance Committee,

I'm writing to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governors recommended level of \$761,800. Without this state funding, Alaska will forfeit over 3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

Susan Baker

Volunteer library board member of the Chiniak Community Library on Kodiak Island.

Clay Creek Pottery

Box 5575

Chiniak, AK 99615

907-486-2895

907-942-0542

Doniece Gott

From: Teresa Williams <tsavok@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB139 and HB256

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

As I hope you realize, this will affect thousands of Alaskans who rely on internet access at their local library. For many who do cannot afford internet access at home, libraries are their source to go online. Internet is crucial to do many things such as to file for Permanent Fund Dividends, find resources to help with job applications and interviews, make airplane tickets, to name a few.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

Sincerely yours,
Teresa Williams

Doniece Gott

From: Seldovia Public Library <seldovia.library@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:18 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Restore OWL funding

Dear honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB 139 and HB 256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband Internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Seldovia Public Library

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:11 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Senate Finance Testimony-bear story

...

Kristen Pratt

Legislative Aide
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516
(907) 694-8944

From: JeffappleBenowitz [mailto:jbenowitz@alaska.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 6:21 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Kailyn Davis <kndavis@alaska.edu>; Patrick Terhune <pjterhune@alaska.edu>; Anna Liljedahl <akliljedahl@alaska.edu>; Joanna Young <joannayo1@gmail.com>
Subject: Senate Finance Testimony-bear story

My name is Jeff Benowitz
and I've been a member of the UAF community since 1990 as student, adjunct and Geophysical institute research faculty

As a researcher I spend my summers , with a short break with the wife for chitna to fill the porch freezer, in the field with uaf undergraduate students. I try to do the right thing in terms of student safety but it doesn't always work out that way.

last summer while researching why the Wrangell volcanoes are some of the most active in the world for the national science foundation-I made the wrong call.

My undergrad field assistant was suffering from an old ankle injury so I left her in camp with a communication device, bear protection and the job of getting some rest while I backpacked samples back to our pick up spot. Things went well and I was back by dinner time to cook up some Indian food in a bag. The next morning we were awoken by a predatory black bear circling our tents. I got up and chased the bear off in my underwear. That is I was in my underwear, not the bear. The black bear circled back and it was approaching in. I was getting ready to take offense action-in a national park-never great- when the student chased the bear off banging pans. I meant to do what was right for my student's health- safety-but I did the wrong thing and left her alone.

please do the right thing and fund the uaf budget at the governor's reasonable level: otherwise student opportunities will suffer.

thnx for serving

In summary-It is not successful Research Faculty, like myself and my wife, who will suffer the most from the proposed UAF budget reductions from the Governor's reasonable level:

It will be the student's we mentor and teach. With limited State Support Researchers will have less time to devote to instructing students because we will no longer be paid to do so and will focus our efforts on grantmanship.

aside: Anna had to go back to Chitna last summer, when I was in the field, cause we didn't limit out the first trip, which was a first for our household, but perhaps a common tale.

-Jeff B.

Doniece Gott

From: WENDY SPARKMAN <wasparkman@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 8:34 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Online With Libraries (OWL)

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee-

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding to the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over 3.1 million in Federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. This is a 400% return on Alaska's investment in the future of our rural communities and their children since every rural community in the state would lose broadband internet access through their libraries if OWL is defunded, causing us to forfeit the federal funding as well. This is a loss that will disproportionately affect our state's rural and native populations.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and insure the federal 4:1 matching funds support broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

Wendy Sparkman
Moose Creek, AK

Doniece Gott

From: caitlin.jacobson@k21schools.org
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:44 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please support vital tech services!

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

Caitlin Dixon Jacobson, MLIS
Ketchikan

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Amy Komar <amykomar@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 7:26 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program!

I ask that funding for Early Childhood Education programs be restored to the amount in Governor Walker's Amended FY 2017.

Thank you,

Amy Komar
Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Cecily Stern <cecily.stern@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 5:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Fund OWL!

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

Thank you,

Cecily

Cecily Stern

Doniece Gott

From: Jonas F Lamb <jlamb13@uas.alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 11:34 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL funding

This is my second message but I was shocked at the lack of response I recovery.

I am writing again to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

This program provides subsidies to make internet affordable in rural Alaska where individuals can't afford access except for maybe 3G mobile service via a phone. I suggest you try and complete a job or college application, write a resume or participate in an e-learning course via a phone before you dismiss the real need for this funding which connects publicly accessible computers and wifi networks in public libraries with broadband to empower Alaskans to stay in their communities while pursuing educational opportunities, connect with family in far away places or connect with customers via e-commerce. For Alaskans to compete they need to be connected. The OWL program provides this connection and hopefully in years to come will step up the level of connectivity to keep up with national thresholds for broadband service. Internet access is no longer a privilege it is a right just like other public utilities and should be adequately funded in order to maintain a basic quality of life service.

Thank You for advocating for an essential service that will level the playing field for all Alaskans regardless of their political interests.

John (Jonas) Lamb

Juneau

Doniece Gott

From: Mary Spalding <mspalding@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:57 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget

Dear Finance committee members.

New revenues are needed NOW. There have been enough sad cuts, especially Pre-K funds. I agree with Clem Tillion when he says we must reinstate a *state income tax*, let the Permanent Fund Dividend be as it have been and use some of the permanent fund *earnings* to operate the state. Forget the mega projects especially the Susitna Dam and Knik Arm bridge.

Many of your constituents are counting on you to create a sustainable revenue plan without robbing them of the very things that make it worth living here. Everyone I know agrees that we do need to take the actions I listed above. **Please listen.**

Thank you for your hard work. I know it is difficult but we are all willing to do our share if you let us.

Mary Spalding
5406 W Dimond Blvd No 3
Anchorage, AK 99502

Doniece Gott

From: Bill Annis <hainesbill06@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:30 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support SAIL in SE Alaska

Dear Finance Committee, I'd like to tell you how much I have benefited from help provided to me from SAIL in my Haines community. Over 50 years ago I suffered a head injury while bicycling. It left long term effects that make getting around very challenging for me. I was blind for 2 months but the vision returned, except for a lot of the periphery. My sense of direction and recent memory were effected to the point where I need to find alternate ways of dealing with these issues. I have limited use of my left side making some mobility issues more challenging, as well as limited use of anything requiring dexterity of the lower extremities.

A little over 3 years ago, I slipped on ice in our parking lot and broke my left leg. Soon after this friends and I decided that continuing to ride a bicycle in all weather conditions was not a good idea. I found someone in town who was selling a small electric vehicle. I couldn't afford the asking price, so I approached SAIL for their help. Within a short time, they had applied for three grants that provided all but a small remaining part of the total price. I got my first drivers license soon after and within a short time, was driving and getting around in my small community more independently than at any time before. Now at age 60, I still ride the bicycle occasionally, but for the most part I drive the electric car. SAIL made this all possible and I know that without their help, I would not have been able to live as I do now with the degree of independence that I do.

Please continue to support SAIL and do not cut funding to this wonderful organization. Thank you.
Bill Annis/Haines

Doniece Gott

From: julene <avalon@aptalaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding the OWL broadband program

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Many rural and urban communities in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through their libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

Julene Brown

Doniece Gott

From: Steven Johnson <stevezoo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:23 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB139 and HB256 - OWL

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries

--

Steve Johnson
4622 Pavalof St.
Anchorage, AK 99507
stevezoo@gmail.com

Doniece Gott

From: Julie Reynolds <alaskiejulie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 8:52 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SAVE DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

As the parent of a child who receives books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and it's partners, I ask that you please save this program! Please restore the funding for Early Childhood Education programs to the amount in Governor Walkers Amended FY 2017 Budget.

Sincerely,
Julie Reynolds
Cordova, AK

Doniece Gott

From: T Smith <tsmithalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 7:14 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: In favor of funding OWL

Hello,

I am a library volunteer as well as a Library Advisory Board member in Homer, Alaska. I am emailing to ask our representatives to please rescind the decision to cut Alaska State Library funds, and the OWL program.

It is vital to keep OWL services and funding to rural communities as well as the trickle down funding to small community libraries via the State Library. The State of Alaska, via library support, invests in human capital, a most valuable resource for the long term. We create a better future by investing in the education of our children.

Thank you,

Therese Smith, Constituent
Homer, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Torgeson, Mary Jo <TorgesonMJ@ci.anchorage.ak.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 5:46 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; 'house.finance.committee@akleg.gov'
Subject: OWL Funding for Online with Libraries SB139 and HB256

Dear Senate and House Finance Committee Members:

I am very concerned over the House Finance Committee's decision to eliminate OWL Funding. OWL is a broadband library program that the Governor recommended in his budget with a price tag of \$761,800. If those dollars are eliminated, over \$3.1 Million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

While villages might not have roads, internet and Broadband is an essential road and often the only internet to the community. If you defund this program, it would be effectively disenfranchising a whole rural demographic. While I understand that cuts need to be made, it does not make sense to cut things that brings dollars into the state.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

Mary Jo Torgeson
Anchorage Public Library Director
3600 Denali
Anchorage, AK 99503
907.343.2892 w; 907.231.3110 c

Doniece Gott

From: Sigrid Brudie <sigrid.brudie@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 5:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: OWL funding

Senators,

I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Online With Libraries (OWL) broadband program in the FY2017 budget (SB139 and HB256) to the Governor's recommended level of \$761,800. Without state funding, Alaska will forfeit over \$3.1 million in federal e-rate matching dollars for broadband and Internet access. Every rural and urban community in Alaska will lose broadband internet access through its libraries for its residents if OWL is defunded and we forfeit this federal e-rate match.

Please restore level funding for OWL in FY2017 and ensure the federal 4:1 matching funds supports broadband access for all Alaska residents at 104 public libraries.

Sigrid Brudie, Anchorage

Sent from my iPhone